AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A controller for controlling a cursor, comprising:

an identifying module for identifying at least one of a first period when a cursor is in motion and a second period when said cursor is not in motion; and

a calibrating module for sampling ~~calibrating~~ an input parameter signal to detect ~~by detecting~~ a hands-off condition ~~period~~ using a first hands-off test during said first period and a second hands-off test, different than said first hands-off test, during said second period, and calibrating said input parameter signal when a hands-off condition is detected.

2. (Original) The controller according to claim 1, wherein said identifying module inputs said input parameter signal from a force sensor, and wherein said calibrating module outputs a calibrated input parameter signal to an output module.

3. (Original) The controller according to claim 2, wherein said input parameter signal comprises an input parameter signal detected during a period when a pointing stick connected to said force sensor is untouched by a user.

4. (Previously presented) The controller according to claim 2, wherein said output module outputs a cursor movement signal based on said calibrated input parameter signal, and

wherein a transfer function for generating said cursor movement signal comprises a dead band within which said cursor movement signal causes no cursor movement for a non-zero input parameter signal.

5. (Currently amended) The controller according to claim 1, wherein said calibrating module calibrates said input parameter signal when a device for controlling said cursor is in ~~during~~ a hands-off condition ~~period~~.

6. (Currently amended) The controller according to claim 1, wherein said first and second hands-off tests are used by said calibrating module to determine a hands-off condition in ~~period during~~ which a device for controlling said cursor is not being touched by a user, and

wherein said calibrating module calibrates a significant input parameter signal by

identifying an input parameter signal detected during said hands-off condition ~~period~~ as having a zero value, relative to which said significant input parameter signal is measured.

7. (Original) The controller according to claim 1, wherein said input parameter signal is calibrated to inhibit a cursor drift.

8. (Original) The controller according to claim 1, wherein said second hands-off test is less stringent than said first hands-off test.

9. (Original) The controller according to claim 1, wherein said first hands-off test comprises a duration of at least about 5 seconds, and said second hands-off test comprises no more than about 0.53 seconds.

10. (Currently amended) A cursor control system, comprising:

a force sensor which generates an input parameter signal; and

a controller operably coupled to said force sensor, comprising:

an identifying module for identifying at least one of a first period when a cursor is in motion and a second period when said cursor is not in motion; and

a calibrating module for sampling ~~calibrating~~ an input parameter signal to detect ~~by detecting~~ a hands-off condition ~~period~~ using a first hands-off test during said first period and a second hands-off test, different than said first hands-off test, during said second period, and calibrating said input parameter signal when a hands-off condition is detected.

11. (Original) The cursor control system according to claim 10, further comprising:

an output module which receives a calibrated input parameter signal from said calibrating module and outputs a cursor movement signal based on said calibrated input parameter signal.

12. (Original) The cursor control system according to claim 10, wherein said force sensor comprises a pointing device which is integrally-formed in a keyboard assembly.

13. (Currently amended) The cursor control system according to claim 10, wherein said

calibrating module calibrates said input parameter signal when a device for controlling said cursor is in ~~during~~ a hands-off condition ~~period~~.

14. (Original) The cursor control system according to claim 10, wherein said first hands-off test comprises a first sampling time, and said second hands-off test comprises a second sampling time which is less than said first sampling time.

15. (Original) The cursor control system according to claim 10, wherein said first hands-off test comprises a duration of at least about 5 seconds, and said second hands-off test comprises no more than about 1 second.

16. (Original) A keyboard assembly comprising the cursor control system according to claim 10, wherein said force sensor comprises a pointing device which is integrally formed in a keyboard.

17. (Original) A computer system, comprising

a keyboard assembly comprising the cursor control system according to claim 10; and

a display device for displaying a cursor controlled by said cursor control system.

18. (Currently amended) A method of controlling a cursor, comprising:

identifying at least one of a first period when a cursor is in motion and a second period when said cursor is not in motion; and

sampling ~~calibrating~~ an input parameter signal to detect ~~by detecting~~ a hands-off condition ~~period~~ using a first hands-off test during said first period and a second hands-off test, different than said first hands-off test, during said second period, and calibrating said input parameter signal when a hands-off condition is detected.

19. (Currently amended) A method of controlling a cursor, comprising:

identifying at least one of a first period when a cursor is in motion and a second period when said cursor is not in motion;

sampling an input parameter signal to detect ~~determining~~ a hands-off condition in ~~period during~~ which a device for controlling said cursor is not being touched by a user, by using a first

hands-off test during said first period and a second hands-off test different than said first hands-off test during said second period; and

calibrating a significant input parameter signal by identifying an input parameter signal detected when a device for controlling said cursor is in ~~during~~ said hands-off condition ~~period~~ as having a zero-value, relative to which said significant input parameter signal is measured.

20. (Currently amended) A programmable storage medium tangibly embodying a program of machine-readable instructions executable by a digital processing apparatus to perform a method of controlling a cursor, said method comprising:

identifying at least one of a first period when a cursor is in motion and a second period when said cursor is not in motion; and

sampling ~~calibrating~~ an input parameter signal to detect ~~by detecting~~ a hands-off condition ~~period~~ using a first hands-off test during said first period and a second hands-off test, different than said first hands-off test, during said second period, and calibrating said input parameter signal when a hands-off condition is detected.

21. (Previously presented) The controller according to claim 1, wherein said controller is included in a pointing stick system, and said input parameter signal measures a force applied to a point stick in said pointing stick system.

22. (Previously presented) The controller according to claim 1, wherein said calibrating said input parameter signal comprises sampling said input parameter signal using a first sampling time during said first period and a second sampling time different than said first sampling time during said second period.

23. (Previously presented) The controller according to claim 1, wherein said first hands-off test comprises a duration that is longer than a duration of said second hands-off test.

24. (New) The controller according to claim 1, wherein said first and second hands-off tests comprise a sampling of the input parameter signal, a duration of said sampling in said first hands-off test being greater than a duration of said sampling in said second hands-off test.